

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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June 24, 2003

FROM: ED KIECZYKOWSKI, County Librarian
County Library

SUBJECT: "A LITE PLACE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES" GRANT APPLICATION
WITH THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

RECOMMENDATION: Ratify authorization by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for County Library to submit a grant application to the California State Library in the amount of \$50,000 for expansion of literacy and school-readiness programs at the Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Branch Library.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The California State Library is offering a grant opportunity as part seven of its Library Services Technology Act to expand existing literacy, technology, or bilingual programs aimed at children (ages 0 to 5 years) to include additional programming for special needs children and their families. In response to this opportunity, County Library created "A LITE Place for Special Needs Families". The goal of this project is to provide special needs literacy and technology services at the Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Branch Library. Specifically, the project is aimed at improving access to information, resources, materials, and adaptive technology for children with special needs, their parents, and their caregivers. This effort would be greatly assisted through the receipt of grant funds. The grant funds would provide for a special collection of books, videos, and CDs on relevant topics such as: visual/hearing/speech/language impairment, autism, learning/developmental disabilities, pre-maturity, at-risk, and medically fragile children. The Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Branch was chosen due to the ability to add-on to existing literacy and technology programs, the ability to meet accessibility requirements for these programs, its' use by other high desert communities, and the lack of comparable programs in the surrounding area.

Due to the limited period of time available to complete the application, staff was unable to finish in time to seek Board approval for submission to the State. Consequently, on June 12, 2003, the Chairman of the Board provided the County Librarian with authorization to sign and submit the application prior to the State's June 16, 2003 deadline. Approval of this recommendation will ratify the Chairman's action in this regard.

If the grant application is successful, County Library will return to the Board for approval to accept these funds in accordance with County Policy.

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by County Counsel (Deputy County Counsel Dawn Stafford) on June 12, 2003, and by the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst) on June 14, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: If the application were approved by the State, this grant would provide funding in the amount of \$50,000 for use in expanding existing literacy and school-readiness programs at the Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Branch Library to improve accessibility and programming for special needs families. This grant does not require matching local funds.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's proposal and recommends this action based on the demonstrated need to provide services to the target group and the financial gain of using outside funding sources to fill this need.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT (S): 1st.

PRESENTER: Ed Kieczkowski, 387-5721.